Increase in the Smuggling of Contraband

942. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the increase in smuggling of contraband goods;

(b) if so, the value of contraband goods seized during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and till 30th June, 1995;

(c) how many persons were arrested/ convicted/released number of persons actually detained under COFEPOSA during 1994-95 as compared to 1993-94 and 1992-93; and punishment awared to such offenders; and

(d) special efforts made in this regard?

The Minister of FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Smuggling being clandestine activity it is not possible to quanitfy the same. However, intelligence reports and trend of seizure of contraband do not indicate an increase in smuggling activities.

(b) and (c) Details of seizure of contraband; no. of persons arrested, convicted, acquitted and number of persons detained from 1992-93 till 30th June, 1995 are stated below:—

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95*	1995-96* (upto June)
Value of contraband seized (in crore)	458.65	456.25	527.49	78.52
No. of Persons arrested	1537	1205	1995	241
No. of Persons convicted	317	340	321	47
No. of Persons acquitted	123	127	231	27
No. of persons detained in cofeposa	336	386	387	88

*Figures are provisional

Persons found involved in smuggling activities are penalised in departmental adjudication proceedings. In appropriate cases offenders are detained under cofeposa and prosecuted in appropriate courts for imposition of fine, and sentence of imprisonment, Statistics of punishment awarded by courts are not being maintained.

(d) Special efforts made in this regard include quick preparation of detention proposals and follow up action in courts for conclusion of prosecution proceedings.

पश्चिमी सिक्किम में पन-बिजली परियोजना

943. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(अ) क्या सरकार पश्चिमी सिक्किम में कोई पन-बिजली परियोजना स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त पन-बिजली परियोजना स्थापित करने हेतु स्थान का चयन करने के लिए और पर्यावरण सुरक्षा एवं स्थानीय क्षेत्रों पर इस परियोजना के प्रतिकूल सामाजिक, आर्थिक तथा पारिस्थितिकीय प्रभावों जैसे अन्य पक्षों की जांच करने के लिए कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है एवं इस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या अंतिम निर्णय लिया है?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल): (क) इस समय पश्चिमी सिक्किम में दो जल विद्युत परियोजनाएं निष्पादनाधीन हैं, जिनके नाम हैं:—

I. केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत रंगित चरण-III जल विद्युत परियोजना, (3×20 मेगावाट)

II. राज्य में रोथांगहु जल विद्युत परियोजना (3×10 मे०वा०)

(ख) से (ग) उपर्युक्त परियोजनाओं को पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय द्वारा पर्यावरण और वन्य दृष्टि से स्वीकृति मिल चुकी है, जैसा कि नीचे दिया गया है:—

क्रम संख्या	परियोजना का नाम	स्वीकृति की तारीख पर्यावरण	वन
1.	रंगित चरण-III (3×20 मेगावाट)	19.7.1984	24.4.1990
2.	रोथांगहु जल विद्युत परियोजना (3×10 मेगावाट)	10.12.1992	29.11.1991

पश्चिमी सिक्किम की कोई भी जल विद्युत परियोजना केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण में तकनीकी-आर्थिक स्वीकृति के लिए जांचाधीन नहीं है। पश्चिमी सिक्किम में इस समय कोई जल विद्युत परियोजना भी अन्वेषणाधीन नहीं है।

Resolution of Issues Regarding Enron's Dabhol Power Project

944. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government have sought Prime Minister's intervention to sort out the issues regarding Enron's Dabhol Power Plant, arising from Maharashtra Government's objections and the review committee's report; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHAMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Interest Rate-Deceptive Appearances

945. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in 'Economic Times' of 13th July, 1995 under the caption "Interest rates-deceptive appearances";

(b) if so, the foreign banks and financial institutions dealing with housing finance, consumer durable finance etc. charging interest under the flat rate system;

(c) whether it is necessary to take permission to charge flat rate of interest; and

(d) if so, whether the foreign banks and other institutions have taken the requisite permission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information it being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Completion of Thein Dam Project

946. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target to complete Thein Dam Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of power generation in various stages of that project;

(e) the cost escalation since its finalisation; and

(f) the original cost and present estimated cost of the project?